

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated April 6, 2004, and have made amendments to the claims. Claims 8, 15-20, 26-28, 32-45 and 47 are pending. Claims 8, 20, 26, 35 and 38 have been amended. Claims 9-11, 21-23, 29-31, 46 and 48 have been canceled without prejudice. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-19, 27, 28, 32-45 and 47 were allowed. With this paper, claims 35 and 38 have been amended to correct typographical errors not related to patentability and it is believed that claims 35 and 38 are still in condition for allowance.

Claims 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by DE 195 20 987 A 1 to Hagenauer. With this paper, claims 10, 11, 22, 23, 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that the section 102 rejection with respect to those claims is moot and it is respectfully requested that the section 102 rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 10, 11, 22, 23, 29 and 30.

Claims 46 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hagenauer in view of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. With this paper, claims 46 and 48 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the section 103 rejection moot. It is respectfully requested that the section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 21, and 31 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim and the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this paper, independent claims 8, 20 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner from, respectively, claims 9, 21 and 31, which have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 20 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that claims 8, 15-20, 26-28, 32-45 and 47 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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